

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-11a targets the reduction in preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks gestation) to a rate of 7.6 per 100 live births (7.6 percent).

A total of 52,522 preterm live births were reported in 2000, at a rate of 9.9 percent based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-11a, Table 16-11a). A total of 51,974 preterm births were reported at a rate of 9.9 percent in 2001, 52,067 in 2002 at a rate of 9.8 percent, and 54,311 in 2003 at a rate of 10.0 percent. California's preterm birth rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 target of 7.6 percent, and increasing away from the target.

Data by race-ethnicity show that the highest preterm birth rates were found for African Americans/Blacks (14.5 percent in 2000, 14.6 in 2001, 14.2 in 2002, and 14.5 in 2003). The next highest rates were found for Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders (10.4 percent in 2000 and 2001, 11.7 in 2002, and 12.5 in 2003), American Indians/Alaska Natives (11.4 percent in 2000, 11.3 in 2001, 10.9 in 2002, and 11.1 in 2003), and the "Multirace" population (11.3 percent in 2000, 10.6 in 2001, 10.2 in 2002, and 10.7 in 2003). This HP2010 objective is not being achieved for any racial or ethnic group as of 2003.

Examined by age of the mother, preterm birth rates were highest for those under 15 years (18.3 percent in 2000, 16.9 in 2001, 16.8 in 2002, and 15.6 in 2003), followed by those aged 35 years and over (11.5 percent in 2000, 11.8 in 2001 and 2002, and 12.1 in 2003). The HP2010 objective of 7.6 percent was not being achieved for any maternal age group as of 2003.

Preterm birth rates for male infants were significantly higher than those for female infants in each year during the 2000-2003 period. The HP2010 objective is not being achieved for either gender of infants as of 2003.

For more information on preterm births in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-11a please visit:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#riskfactors>

Figure 16-11a
Total Preterm Births (Under 37 Completed Weeks Gestation)
California, 2000-2003

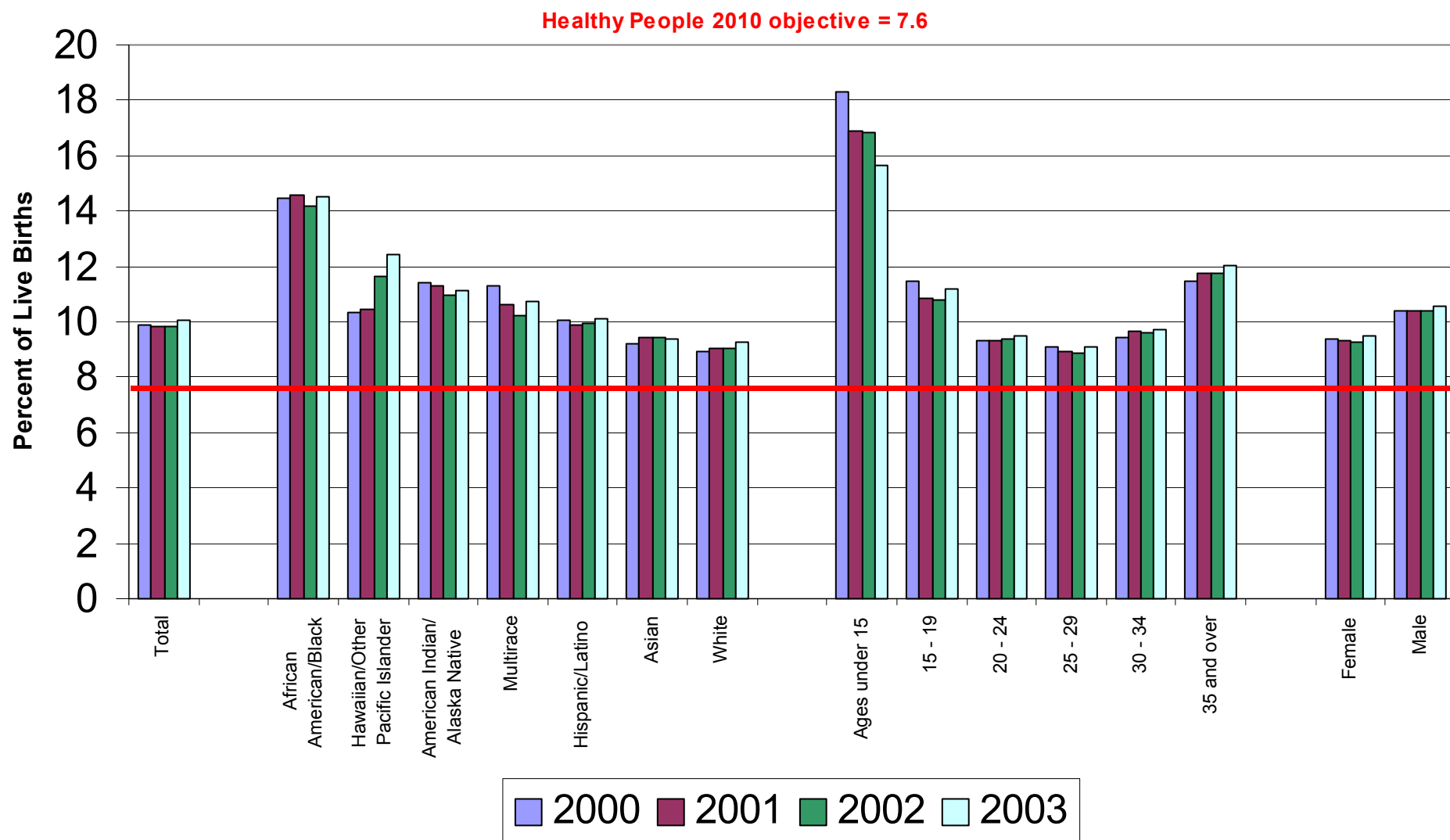


Table 16-11a
Total Preterm Births
California, 2000-2003

Preterm Births (< 37 weeks)	2000					2001				
	Preterm Births ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	Preterm Births ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target	7.6					7.6				
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	52,522	531,285	9.9	9.8	10.0	51,974	527,371	9.9	9.8	9.9
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	4,680	32,302	14.5	14.1	14.9	4,508	30,965	14.6	14.2	15.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	225	1,975	11.4	10.0	12.8	224	1,986	11.3	9.9	12.7
Asian	5,412	58,876	9.2	9.0	9.4	5,408	57,443	9.4	9.2	9.7
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	246	2,376	10.4	9.1	11.6	246	2,355	10.4	9.2	11.7
Hispanic/Latino	25,891	257,958	10.0	9.9	10.2	25,798	260,996	9.9	9.8	10.0
White	15,023	168,233	8.9	8.8	9.1	14,764	163,777	9.0	8.9	9.2
Multirace	708	6,254	11.3	10.5	12.1	677	6,388	10.6	9.8	11.4
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	164	895	18.3	15.8	20.9	137	810	16.9	14.3	19.5
15 - 19	6,352	55,373	11.5	11.2	11.7	5,752	52,966	10.9	10.6	11.1
20 - 24	11,442	122,591	9.3	9.2	9.5	11,466	123,227	9.3	9.1	9.5
25 - 29	12,738	139,615	9.1	9.0	9.3	12,163	136,439	8.9	8.8	9.1
30 - 34	12,035	127,502	9.4	9.3	9.6	12,338	127,946	9.6	9.5	9.8
35 and over	9,791	85,309	11.5	11.3	11.7	10,118	85,983	11.8	11.6	12.0
Sex of Child										
Female	24,270	259,217	9.4	9.3	9.5	24,045	258,121	9.3	9.2	9.4
Male	28,248	272,061	10.4	10.3	10.5	27,924	269,237	10.4	10.3	10.5

Table 16-11a, continued
Total Preterm Births
California, 2000-2003

Preterm Births (< 37 weeks)	2002					2003				
	Preterm Births ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	Preterm Births ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target	7.6					7.6				
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	52,067	529,241	9.8	9.8	9.9	54,311	540,827	10.0	10.0	10.1
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	4,220	29,806	14.2	13.8	14.6	4,236	29,211	14.5	14.1	14.9
American Indian/Alaska Native	215	1,966	10.9	9.6	12.3	223	2,004	11.1	9.8	12.5
Asian	5,592	59,376	9.4	9.2	9.7	5,755	61,525	9.4	9.1	9.6
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	281	2,411	11.7	10.4	12.9	300	2,409	12.5	11.1	13.8
Hispanic/Latino	26,089	263,022	9.9	9.8	10.0	27,298	269,691	10.1	10.0	10.2
White	14,551	161,470	9.0	8.9	9.2	15,121	162,920	9.3	9.2	9.5
Multirace	696	6,813	10.2	9.5	10.9	762	7,112	10.7	10.0	11.4
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	125	743	16.8	14.1	19.5	111	710	15.6	13.0	18.3
15 - 19	5,417	50,200	10.8	10.5	11.1	5,524	49,330	11.2	10.9	11.5
20 - 24	11,521	123,056	9.4	9.2	9.5	11,741	123,815	9.5	9.3	9.6
25 - 29	12,181	137,236	8.9	8.7	9.0	12,767	140,556	9.1	8.9	9.2
30 - 34	12,522	130,367	9.6	9.4	9.8	13,122	134,809	9.7	9.6	9.9
35 and over	10,301	87,639	11.8	11.5	12.0	11,046	91,607	12.1	11.8	12.3
Sex of Child										
Female	24,008	258,855	9.3	9.2	9.4	24,983	263,882	9.5	9.4	9.6
Male	28,054	270,378	10.4	10.3	10.5	29,322	276,933	10.6	10.5	10.7

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2003.

NOTES: ¹ Preterm births defined as live births of less than 37 completed weeks gestation (less than 259 days); records with missing gestational age and with gestational ages of 118 days or less are excluded.

² Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

³ Rate per 100 live births (percent).